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Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 27/02/2009

Summary

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Feature Articles

Recent Increases in South Australia's Fertility



Demography

Includes: **Estimated resident population, Components of population change**

South Australia's population increased 1.1% during the year ended 30 June 2008.



Labour Force

Includes: **Contents, Employed persons, Unemployment, Participation rate**

South Australia's unemployment rate increased slightly from 5.5% in December 2008 to 5.6% in January 2009.



Incomes

Includes: **Average weekly earnings**

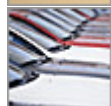
Average weekly earnings for South Australian males increased 5.0% in the year to August 2008, while female earnings increased 3.3%.



State Accounts

Includes: **State accounts, Household final consumption expenditure (HFCE)**

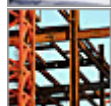
South Australia's State Final Demand increased by 1.0% in the September quarter 2008.



Consumption

Includes: **Retail trade, New motor vehicle sales**

Retail turnover in SA grew 2.4% from November 2008 to December 2008 (seasonally adjusted).



Investment

Includes: **Private new capital expenditure, Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure**

South Australia's Private New Capital Expenditure increased by 2.7% to \$1,363m in the September 2008 quarter.



Construction

Includes: **Building approvals, Construction work done**

The total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia decreased by 4.0% from November 2008 to December 2008.



Price Indexes

Includes: **Contents, Consumer price index, Wage price index, House price index**

The house price index for Adelaide rose 2.0% in the year to the December quarter 2008.



Housing Finance

Includes: **Housing finance commitments**

Total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupier) for South Australia in December 2008 was \$938m.



International Merchandise Trade

Includes: **Exports and Imports**

The value of South Australia's merchandise exports was \$915m in December 2008 (up 19.5% from November 2008).



Water

Includes: **Rainfall, Reservoir levels**

Total water storage in Adelaide's reservoirs was at 70% of capacity at the end of January 2009.

In this issue

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

March 2009
April 2009
May 2009

Release Date

31 March 2009
28 April 2009
26 May 2009

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH

Topics which have been updated with new data in this month's issue of **SA Stats** include: Consumption; Construction; Price Indexes; Labour Force; International Merchandise Trade; Housing Finance and Water.

There have been some changes to the Retail Trade data presented in this publication. Previous issues of SA Stats included monthly trend series estimates, however the monthly Retail Trade trend series has been suspended as at November 2008. Further information is available from Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0). SA Stats will include seasonally adjusted monthly Retail Trade data until the trend series is reintroduced. The quarterly Retail Trade trend series data for the December quarter 2008 is included in this month's SA Stats.

This month's issue of SA Stats includes a feature article on Recent Increases in South Australia's Fertility. In 2007, South Australia's fertility rate was 1.92, the highest level since 1975. The article examines the fertility rate with regard to the age of the mother and the relative socio-economic status of the region in which she lives.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or James Inglis on Adelaide (08) 8237 7405, or email sa.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Feature Articles



FEATURE ARTICLES

Feb 2009 Recent Increases in South Australia's Fertility

Jan 2009	South Australian Household Final Consumption Expenditure
2009	
Dec 2008	Energy Consumption in South Australia
Nov 2008	Adelaide's Population Turnover
Oct 2008	Contributors to Adelaide's Price Rises
Sep 2008	<u>Adelaide's Suburbs of Advantage and Disadvantage</u>
Aug 2008	South Australia's Agriculture Industry
July 2008	<u>New Dwelling Approvals in South Australia</u>
May 2008	<u>Literacy of South Australians</u>
April 2008	<u>South Australia's Migrant Population</u>
	<u>South Australia's Ageing Population and the Labour Force</u>
Feb 2008	<u>South Australia's Mining Industry</u>
	<u>Water Supply in South Australia</u>
Jan 2008	<u>Labour Force Underutilisation and the Underemployed in South Australia</u>
	<u>Water Use in Agriculture - A South Australian Perspective</u>
2007	
Nov 2007	<u>Sports Attendance in South Australia</u>
	<u>Recorded Crime - Victims, South Australia, 2006</u>
Oct 2007	<u>Attendance at Cultural Venues and Events by South Australians</u>
Aug 2007	<u>Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities - South Australia, 2006</u>
Jul 2007	<u>South Australia's big picture: Census highlights the changes in South Australian society</u>
	<u>Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation Activities - South Australia</u>
May 2007	<u>Health of South Australians - Body Mass</u>
	<u>Household Use of the Internet in South Australia</u>
Apr 2007	<u>Employment in the Retail Trade Industry in South Australia</u>
	<u>River Murray - South Australia</u>
Mar 2007	<u>Household Waste Management in South Australia</u>
Feb 2007	<u>Births - South Australia</u>
Jan 2007	<u>Gross Domestic Product and Gross State Product</u>
2006	
Dec 2006	<u>Rainfall in South Australia, South Australian Reservoirs, Water Consumption</u>
Nov 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health related actions</u>
Oct 2006	<u>National Regional Profile - New Release, New Features</u>
Sep 2006	<u>Fuel Production and Consumption, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use Change and Forestry</u>
Aug 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health Risk Behaviours</u>
	<u>The South Australian Grape Industry</u>
Jul 2006	<u>Use of IT By Australian Businesses</u>
	<u>Household use of the Internet in South Australia</u>
May 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health Status</u>
Apr 2006	<u>International Trade in Services</u>
	<u>International Students in South Australia</u>
Feb 2006	<u>Labour Force and Other Characteristics of Migrants in South Australia</u>
Jan 2006	<u>Survey of work in selected Culture & Leisure Activities</u>
2005	
Nov 2005	<u>Household Income in South Australia</u>
	<u>Household Expenditure in South Australia</u>
Oct 2005	<u>SA Business and Innovation</u>
	<u>Recent History of Population change in South Australia, 1993-94 to 2003-04</u>
Aug 2005	<u>Average Weekly Earnings</u>
	<u>Transition from School</u>

Demography



DEMOGRAPHY

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,601,800 at 30 June 2008, an increase of about 17,600 persons (1.1%) since 30 June 2007. Nationally, the ERP was 21,374,000 at 30 June 2008, an increase of about 359,000 persons (1.7%) since 30 June 2007.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Preliminary data

	Population at end June quarter 2008 '000	Change over previous year '000	Change over previous year %
New South Wales	6 967.2	79.2	1.1
Victoria	5 297.6	92.7	1.8
Queensland	4 279.4	98.0	2.3
South Australia	1 601.8	17.6	1.1
Western Australia	2 163.2	57.1	2.7
Tasmania	498.2	4.8	1.0
Northern Territory	219.9	5.0	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	344.2	4.5	1.3
Australia(a)	21 374.0	359.0	1.7

(a) Includes Other Territories comprising Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).

In 2006-07, the South Australian Statistical Division (SD) with the largest increase in ERP was Outer Adelaide (2.0%) followed by Adelaide (1.1%).

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, By Statistical Division, South Australia(a)

	2006		2007	
	Population at 30 June '000	Change over previous year %	Population at 30 June '000	Change over previous year %
Adelaide	1 146.1	1.0	1 158.3	1.1
Outer Adelaide	128.9	2.4	131.5	2.0
Yorke and Lower North	45.6	0.9	46.0	0.9
Murray Lands	69.5	0.5	69.8	0.4
South East	64.6	0.7	65.0	0.5
Eyre	34.8	0.4	34.9	0.4
Northern	78.7	-0.2	79.2	0.6
South Australia	1 568.2	1.0	1 584.5	1.0

(a) Estimates for 2007 are preliminary.

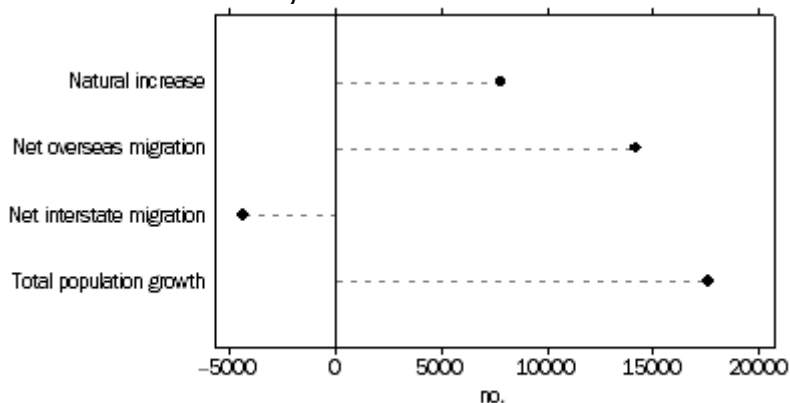
[Map of South Australia's Statistical Divisions\(PDF 2.44MB\)](#)

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

For the year ended 30 June 2008, South Australia recorded a natural increase (i.e. the net of births and deaths) of 7,793 persons. Net overseas migration provided a gain of 14,186 persons in the same period while net interstate migration realised a loss of 4,335 persons.

For the year ended 30 June 2008, Australia recorded a natural increase in population of 145,495 persons; net overseas migration resulted in a gain of 213,461 people.

POPULATION GROWTH, South Australia - Year ended June 2008



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

Labour Force



LABOUR FORCE

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[Employed persons](#)

[Unemployment](#)

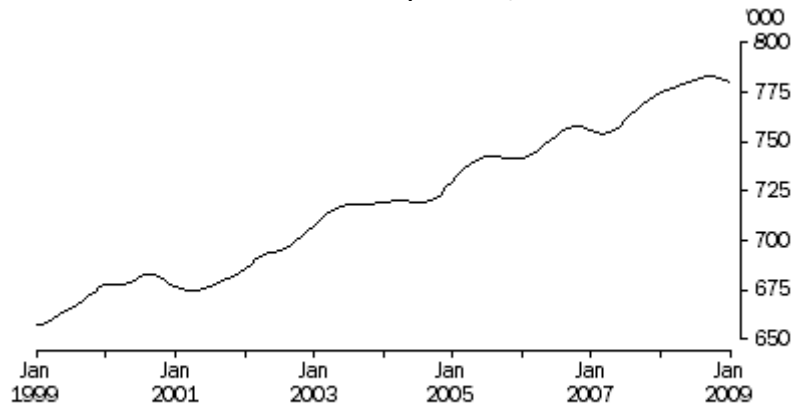
[Participation rate](#)

EMPLOYED PERSONS

In trend terms, the total number of persons employed in South Australia in January 2009 was 780,000, a decrease of 1,200 from the number of persons employed in December 2008 (781,200). The total number of persons employed in Australia in January 2009 was

10,745,400, an increase of 300 on the number employed in December 2008 (10,745,100).

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Trend, South Australia



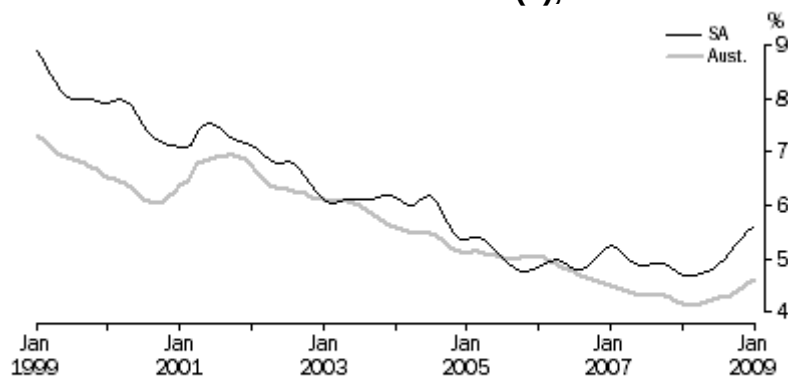
Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

The number of males employed full-time in South Australia in January 2009 was 361,600 (in trend terms), a decrease from 362,100 in December 2008. The number of females employed full-time in South Australia in January 2009 was 173,100 (in trend terms), a decrease from 173,900 in December 2008.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend estimate unemployment rate for South Australia increased slightly from 5.5% in December 2008 to 5.6% in January 2009. Australia's unemployment rate also increased slightly from 4.5% in December 2008 to 4.6% in January 2009.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend

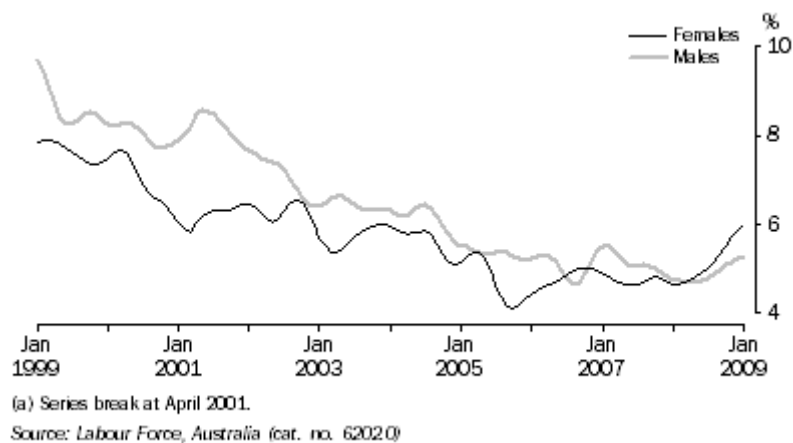


(a) Series break at April 2001.

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

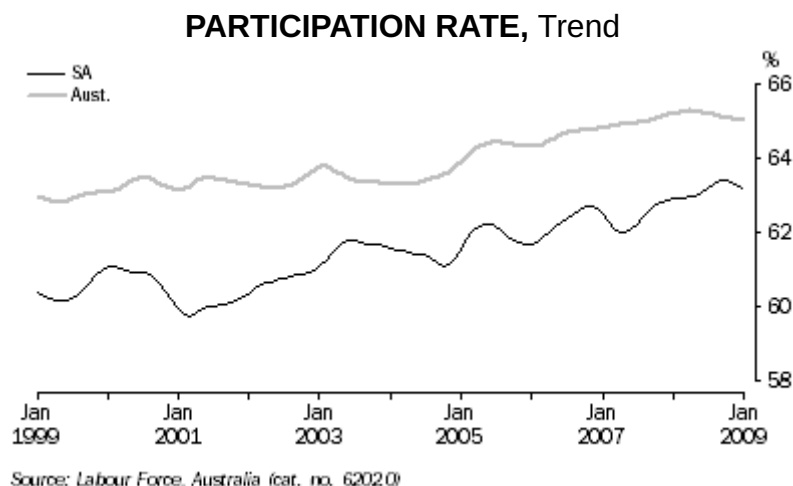
For South Australia, the trend unemployment rate for males increased slightly from 5.2% in December 2008 to 5.3% in January 2009. The trend unemployment rate for females in South Australia rose slightly from 5.9% in December 2008 to 6.0% in January 2009.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia



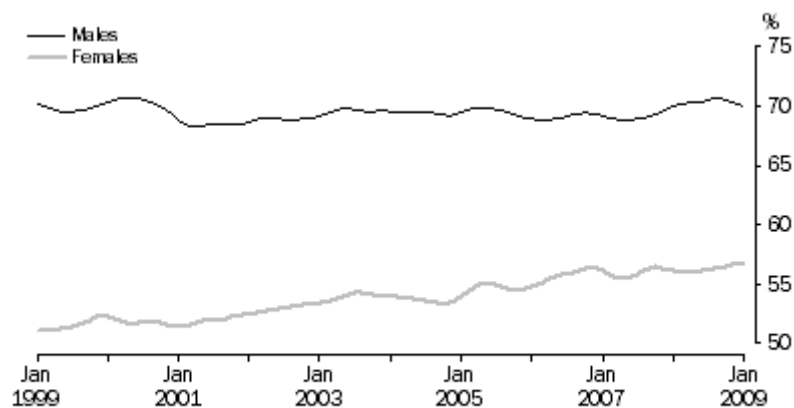
PARTICIPATION RATE

The trend estimate of the participation rate for South Australia in January 2009 was 63.2%, down slightly from 63.3% in December 2008. Australia's trend participation rate also decreased slightly from 65.1% in December 2008 to 65.0% in January 2009.



For South Australia, the trend participation rate for males dropped slightly from 70.2% in December 2008 to 70.0% in January 2009. The Australian participation rate for males remained constant from December 2008 to January 2009 at 72.1%. The participation rate for South Australian females remained constant from December 2008 to January 2009 at 56.6%. The Australian female participation rate also remained constant over this period at 58.2%.

PARTICIPATION RATE, Trend, South Australia



Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Incomes



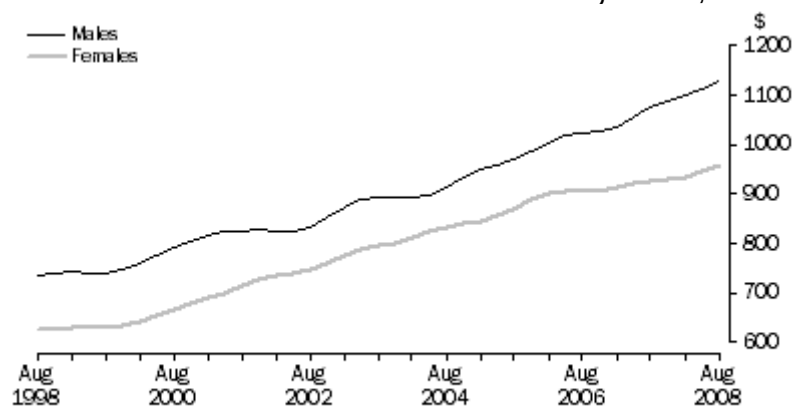
INCOMES

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 4.3% to \$1,067.60 in the 12 months to August 2008. Nationally, the corresponding increase was slightly higher at 4.5% (up to \$1,145.10).

In the 12 months to August 2008, average weekly earnings in South Australia for males increased by 5.0% to \$1,126.60. Nationally, male average weekly earnings increased 4.9% to \$1220.60. Female average weekly earnings in South Australia increased by 3.3% to \$958.70 in the 12 months to August 2008, compared with a national increase of 4.4% to \$1017.20.

FULL-TIME ADULT ORDINARY TIME EARNINGS, Trend, South Australia



Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)

For information on the wage price index, please refer to the '[Price Indexes](#)' topic.

State Accounts



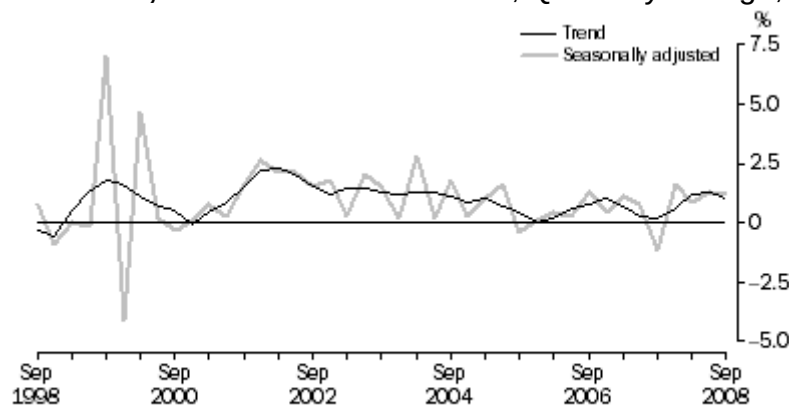
STATE ACCOUNTS

STATE ACCOUNTS

South Australia's September quarter 2008 State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$18,737m, a 1.0% increase from the June quarter 2008. Australia's Domestic Final Demand increased 0.7% in the September quarter 2008, to \$284,293m.

Of the other states and territories, the strongest growth for the quarter was reported in the Northern Territory (up 2.8%) followed by Western Australia (up 2.1%).

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures, Quarterly change, South Australia

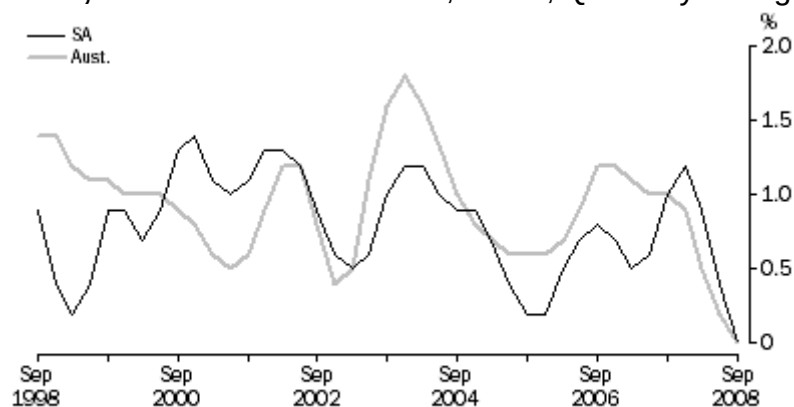


Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (HFCE)

In chain volume (trend) terms, South Australia's September quarter 2008 HFCE was \$10,838m (7.1% of the national total of \$152,462m). The value of HFCE was unchanged from the June quarter 2008 for South Australia. For Australia, HFCE was virtually unchanged from the June quarter 2008.

HFCE, Chain volume measures, Trend, Quarterly change

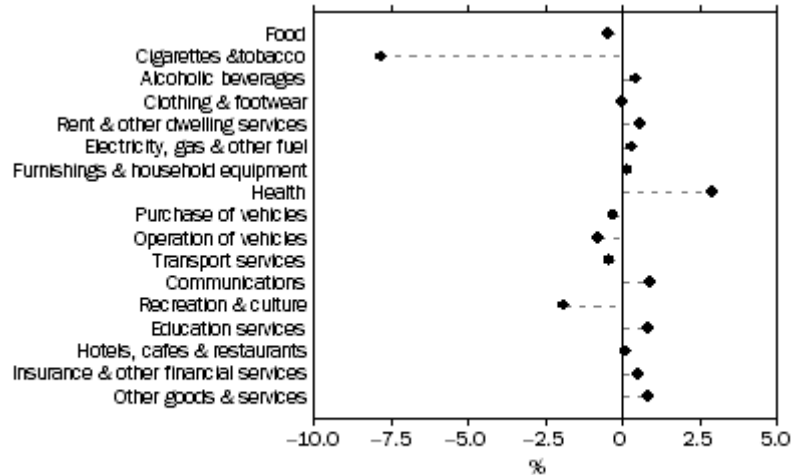


Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

The largest increases in expenditure in South Australia for the September quarter 2008 were for Health (up 2.9% from the June quarter 2008), and Communications (up 0.9%). Expenditure on Cigarettes and tobacco decreased by 7.8% over this period.

For Australia, the largest increase was for Alcoholic beverages (up 0.9% from the June quarter 2008) followed by Insurance and other financial services (up 0.8%) and Health (up 0.7%). Expenditure on Purchase of vehicles decreased 3.6% from the June quarter 2008.

HFCE, Chain volume measures, Trend, Quarterly change, SA - Sep Qtr 2008



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

Consumption



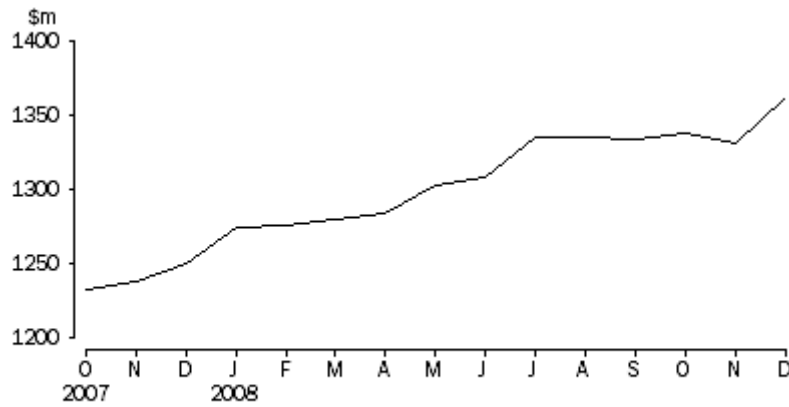
CONSUMPTION

RETAIL TRADE

The December 2008 seasonally adjusted estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,363.1m, while the estimate for Australia was \$19,162.8m. South Australia's contribution to total retail turnover in Australia in December 2008 was 7.1%, down from 7.2% in November 2008.

From November 2008, the increase in retail turnover for South Australia across all retail industries was 2.4%, while turnover for Australia grew by 3.8%.

RETAIL TURNOVER, Seasonally adjusted, South Australia

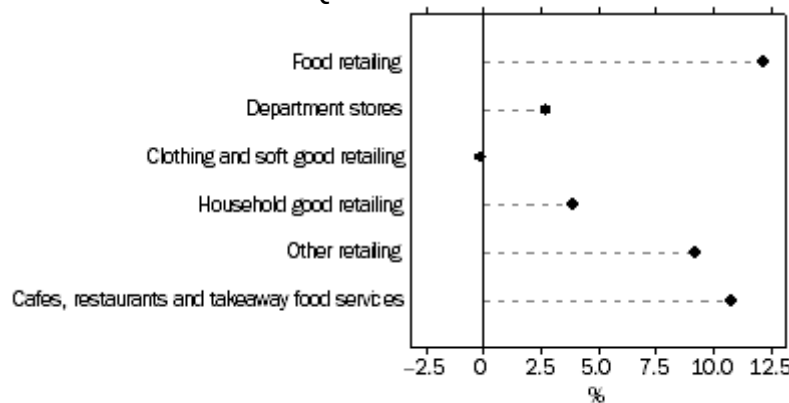


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

Comparing the December quarter 2008 with the December quarter 2007, the two South Australian industry groups with the largest percentage increases in retail turnover (in trend terms) were Food retailing, rising by 12.2% to \$1,768.3m, and Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services, rising by 10.8% to \$438.7m.

The only South Australian industry group to report a decrease in retail turnover was Clothing and soft good retailing, which decreased by 0.1% to \$196.5m.

RETAIL TURNOVER, Trend, Change over previous year, South Australia - December Quarter 2008



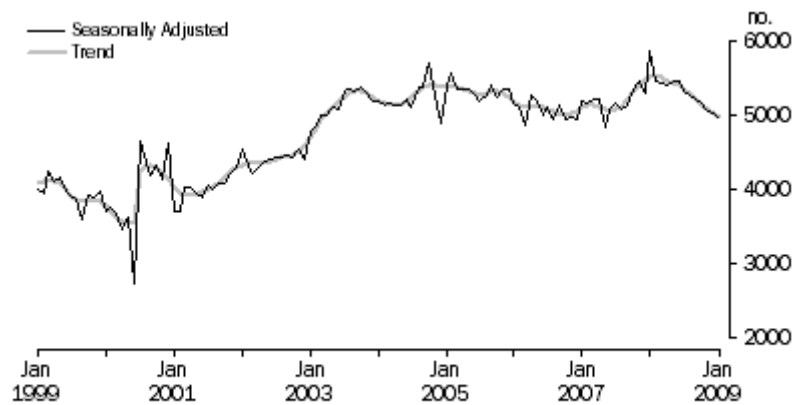
Source: Retail Trade Quarterly Indicators, Australia (cat. no. 8502.0)

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

In January 2009, 3,081 new passenger vehicles and 4,973 new vehicles in total (in trend terms) were sold in South Australia. The trend estimate for total new vehicle sales in South Australia has continually decreased since February 2008.

In Australia, 45,206 new passenger vehicles and 75,937 new vehicles in total (in trend terms) were sold in January 2009. The trend estimate for total new vehicle sales in Australia has continually decreased since December 2007.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, South Australia



Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0)

Investment



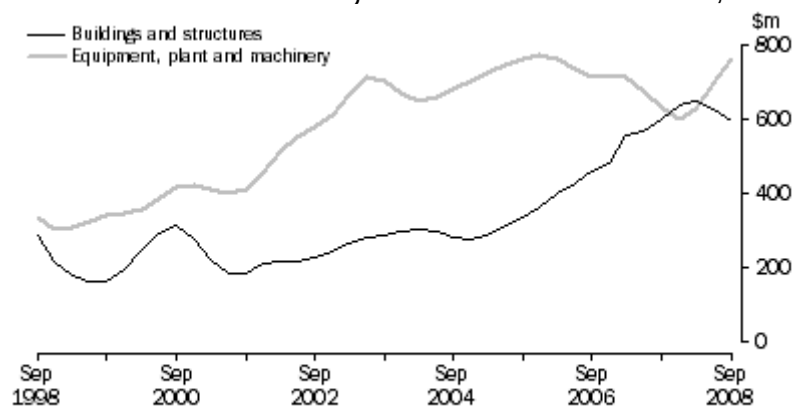
INVESTMENT

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Between the June 2008 and September 2008 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure increased by 2.7% to \$1,363m. Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery increased by \$69m (or 9.9%) to \$766m, while expenditure on Buildings and structures decreased by \$33m (or 5.2%) to \$597m.

Between the June 2008 and September 2008 quarters, private new capital expenditure for Australia increased by 2.9% to \$23,377m. Expenditure on Equipment, plants and machinery increased by 2.4%, while Buildings and structures expenditure increased by 3.1% over this period.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Chain volume measures, Trend, South Australia



Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (cat. no. 5625.0)

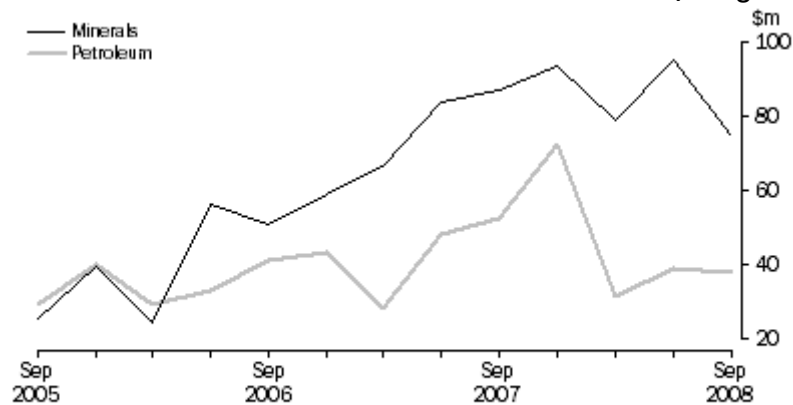
MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

The value of mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia during the September quarter 2008 was \$75.0m (in original terms), down 21.2% from \$95.2m for the June quarter 2008. Over the same period, Australian expenditure on mineral exploration decreased by 5.5% from \$728.1m in the June quarter 2008 to \$687.7m in the September quarter 2008.

The main minerals sought in South Australia in the September quarter 2008 were copper (\$28.5m exploration expenditure), uranium (\$22.4m), and gold (\$13.6m).

Expenditure on petroleum exploration in South Australia in the September quarter 2008 was \$37.9m, down 3.5% from the June quarter 2008. Nationally, expenditure on petroleum exploration decreased 8.9% from \$857.2m in the June quarter 2008 to \$781.3m in the September quarter 2008.

MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Original, South Australia



Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia (cat. no. 8412.0)

Construction



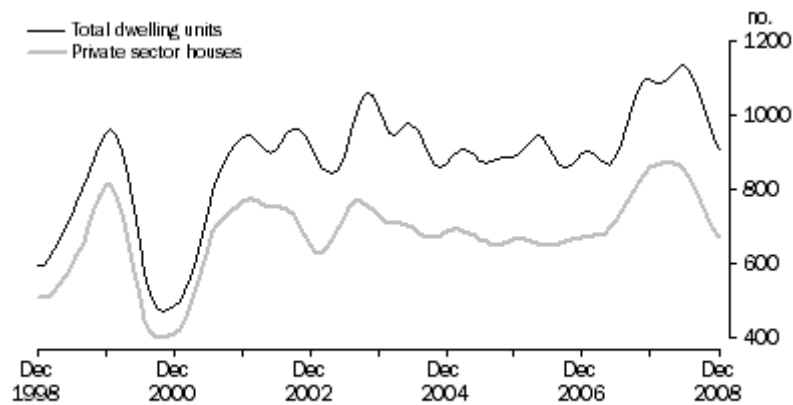
CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING APPROVALS

In December 2008, the total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia (in trend terms) fell 4.0% to 906. Nationally, the total number of dwelling units approved (in trend terms) fell 4.9% to 9,692.

The trend estimate for the number of private sector houses approved in South Australia in December 2008 fell 3.3% to 672. This was the eighth consecutive monthly fall.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)

In the year ended December 2008, the largest percentage increase in dwelling units approved in South Australia was recorded for the South East Statistical Division (SD) (38.2%). The Murray Lands SD recorded the largest percentage decrease in dwelling units approved in the year ended December 2008 (down 23.4%), following a 45.9% increase during the year ended December 2007.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, by Statistical Division (SD), Original, South Australia

	Year ended December 2007		Year ended December 2008	
	Dwelling units	Change over previous year	Dwelling units	Change over previous year
	no.	%	no.	%
Adelaide	8 109	2.6	8 747	7.9
Outer Adelaide	1 580	1.5	1 757	11.2
Yorke and Lower North	543	9.3	592	9.0
Murray Lands	668	45.9	512	-23.4
South East	382	-1.0	528	38.2
Eyre	258	16.7	322	24.8
Northern	465	23.7	509	9.5
South Australia	12 005	5.3	12 967	8.0

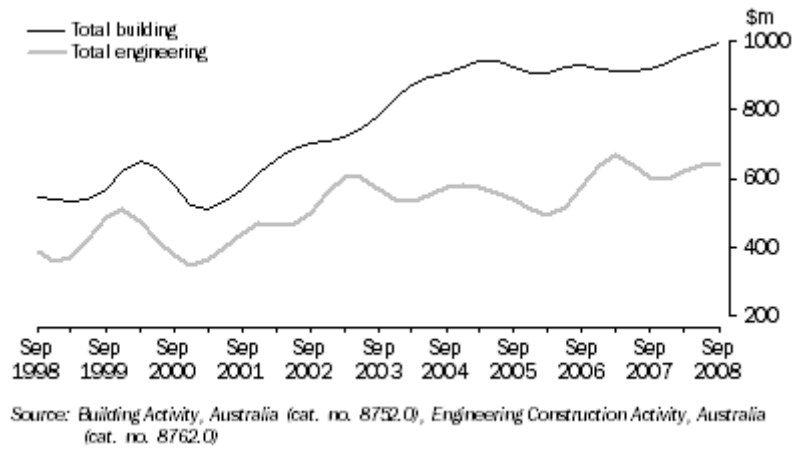
Source: Building Approvals, Australia - data available on request

[Map of South Australia's Statistical Divisions](#) (PDF 2.44MB)

CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE

In the September quarter 2008, the total value of building work done (in trend terms) in South Australia was \$997.6m, an increase of 1.8% from \$980.1m for the June quarter 2008. The total value of engineering work done in the September quarter 2008 was \$646.0m, an increase of 1.1% from the June quarter 2008 (\$639.3m).

VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Chain volume measures, Trend, South Australia



Price Indexes



PRICE INDEXES

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[Consumer price index](#)

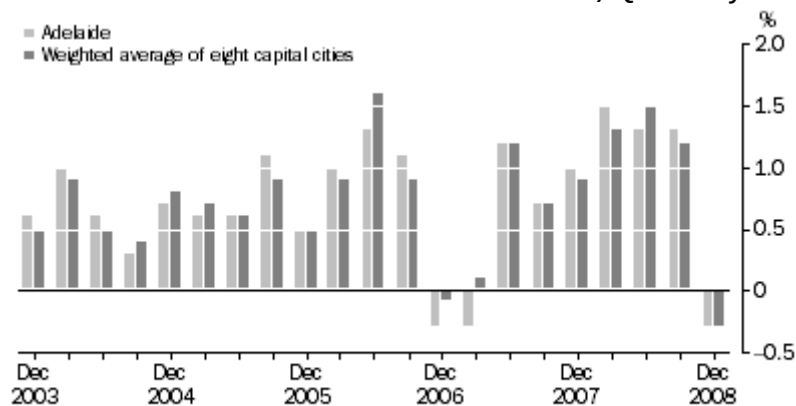
[Wage price index](#)

[House price index](#)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide decreased by 0.3% in the December quarter 2008 while the weighted average of the eight capital cities also decreased by 0.3% in that quarter. Adelaide's CPI increased by 3.8% in the year ending December quarter 2008, compared with a 3.7% rise in the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS, Quarterly change



Adelaide's largest percentage increases in prices from the previous quarter were in the areas of Alcohol and tobacco (2.2%), Food (1.8%), Housing (1.0%) and Household contents and services (1.0%). The largest decreases in prices from the previous quarter were for Transportation (-7.4%) and Health (-1.0%).

CPI GROUPS, Quarterly change, Adelaide - December Quarter 2008

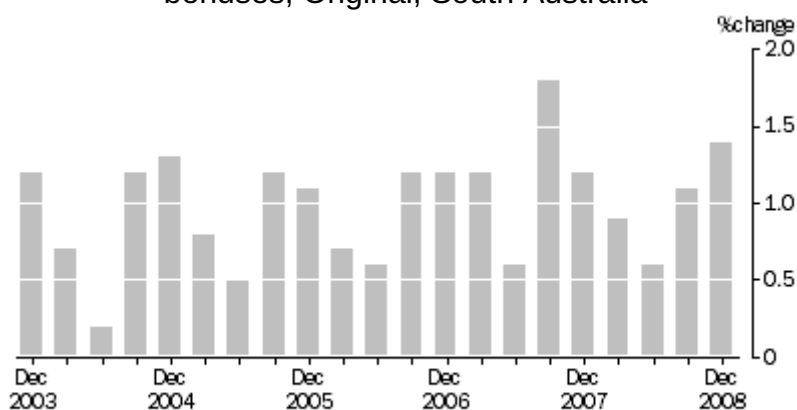


Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

WAGE PRICE INDEX

The wage price index for all employee jobs in South Australia increased by 1.4% (in original terms) from the September quarter 2008 to the December quarter 2008. This was greater than the increase nationally (1.2%) over this period.

WAGE PRICE INDEX QUARTERLY CHANGES, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, Original, South Australia



Source: Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)

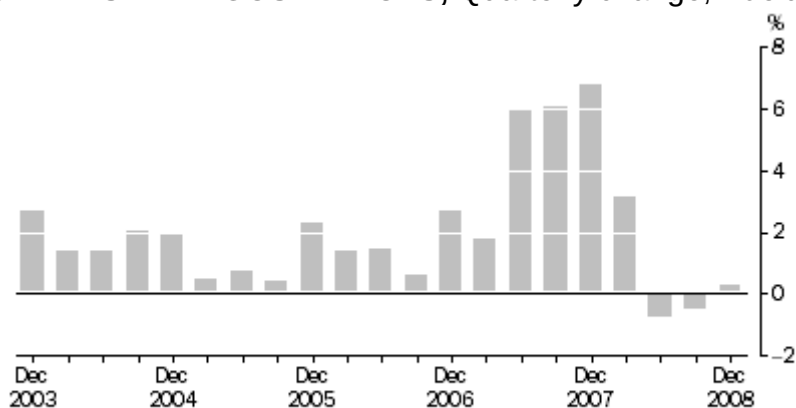
HOUSE PRICE INDEX

Preliminary estimates show that the price index for established houses for Adelaide (in original terms) increased 0.3% in the December quarter 2008. The only other cities in which the House Price Index increased between the September Quarter 2008 and the December Quarter 2008 were Darwin (1.6%) and Canberra (0.7%). The price index for the weighted average of the eight capital cities decreased by 0.8% over this period.

Over the year to the December quarter 2008, the preliminary estimates show the price index

for established houses for Adelaide rose 2.0%, while the weighted average of the eight capital cities decreased 3.3%.

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES, Quarterly change, Adelaide



Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

Housing Finance

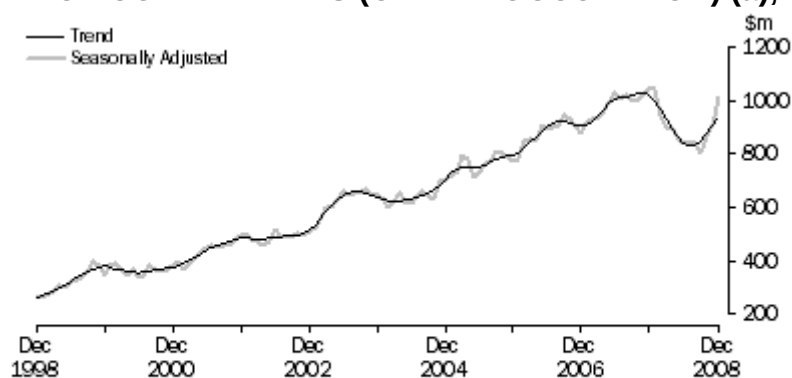


HOUSING FINANCE

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

In trend terms, the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia in December 2008 was \$938m, an increase of 3.4% from \$907m in November 2008. Nationally, the value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation grew by 1.7% from \$12,686m in November 2008 to \$12,897m in December 2008.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION) (a), South Australia



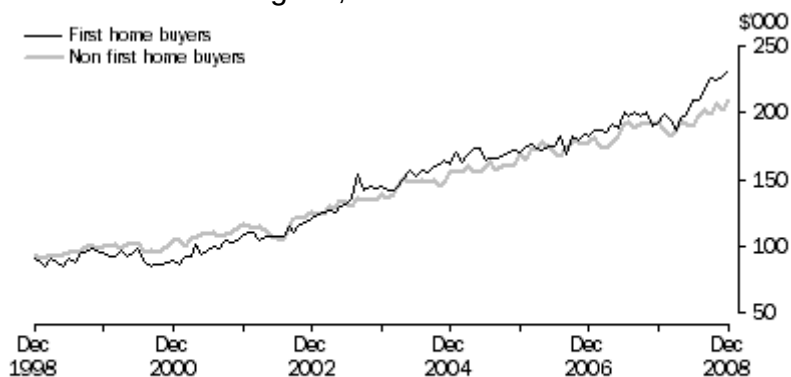
(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.
Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0)

In December 2008, the average home loan size for owner occupied dwellings in South Australia was \$214,900, which was significantly lower than the average home loan size for Australia (\$257,400). Over the past year, there has been some growth in the average loan size for owner occupied dwellings in South Australia; the average loan size in December

2008 (\$214,900) was 10.8% higher than that of December 2007 (\$194,000).

In December 2008, the average loan size for first home buyers in South Australia was \$232,800, which was 11.0% higher than the average loan size for non-first home buyers (\$209,700). From November 2008 to December 2008, the average loan size for first home buyers increased by 1.9%, while the average loan size for non-first home buyers increased by 3.1%.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION) (a), Average loan size, Original, South Australia



(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0)

For information on the house price index, please refer to the '[Price Indexes](#)' topic.

International Merchandise Trade



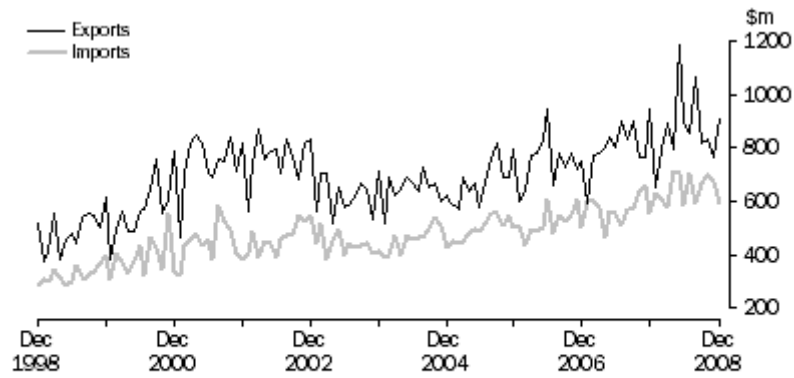
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

South Australia's value of exports on a recorded trade basis in December 2008 was \$915m. This represents an increase of 19.5% from November 2008 (\$765m) but a decrease of 3.1% from December 2007 (\$944m). The value of Australian merchandise exports for December 2008 was \$21,482m, a 37.9% increase from the previous year (\$15,582m in December 2007).

The value of South Australian merchandise imports increased to \$595m in December 2008 from \$554m in December 2007, an increase of 7.5%. The value of Australian merchandise imports for December 2008 was \$20,130m, a 28.2% increase from December 2007 (\$15,699m).

VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (a), on a recorded trade basis, South Australia



(a) Exports where the final stage of production or manufacture occurs in South Australia.

Source: *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia* (cat. no. 5368.0)

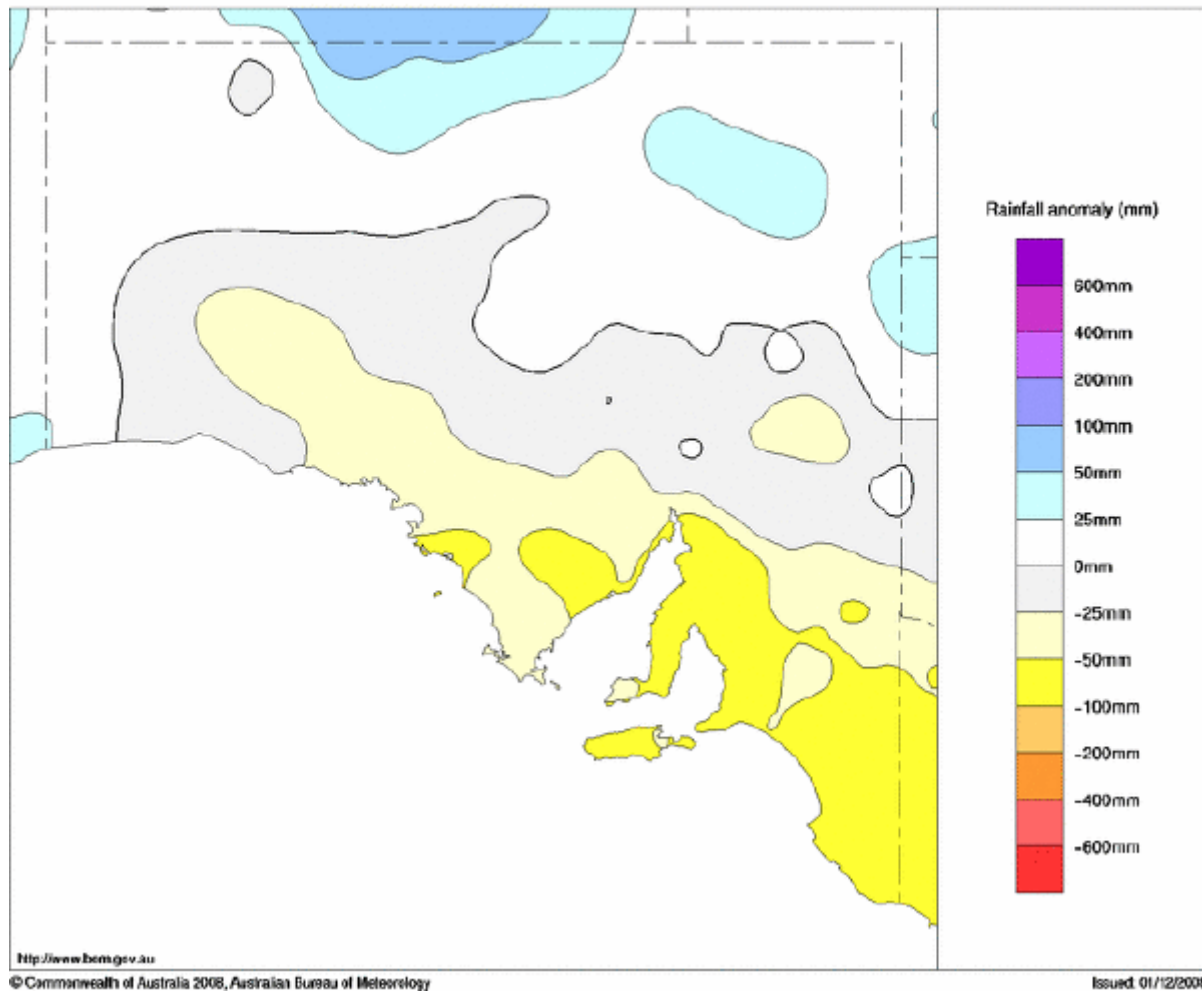
Water



WATER

RAINFALL

Spring rainfall totals over South Australia were mostly below average, apart from the north of the state and some coastal locations. September and October generally saw very much below average rainfall across most of the state, with a return to near average conditions in November. Several locations had the lowest Spring rainfall on record, with most of the agricultural areas seeing Spring rainfall in the lowest 10% of those on record, though rainfall was above average in the pastoral areas.

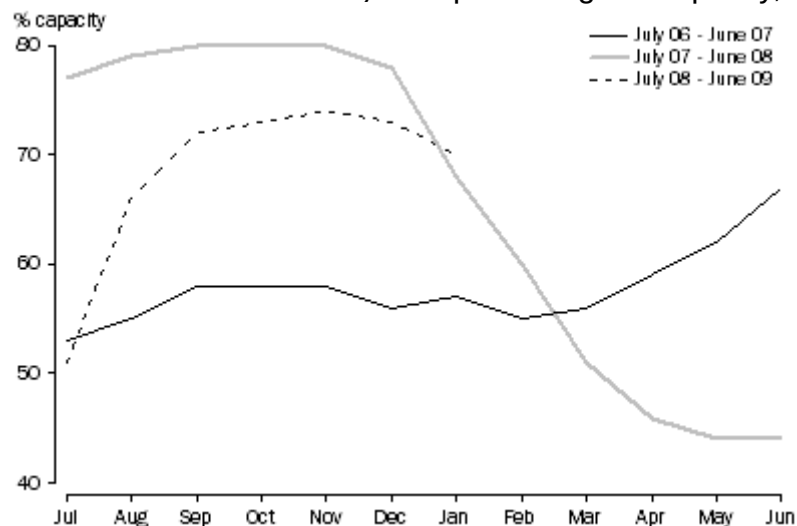


Source: 3-monthly rainfall anomalies for South Australia, Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

RESERVOIR LEVELS

The total water storage in Adelaide's reservoirs at the end of January 2009 was 70% of capacity, compared to 68% at the same time in 2008.

TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE, As a percentage of capacity, Adelaide



About this Release

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian population and economy. The publication is updated on a monthly basis, with most releases also featuring an article that provides a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

Recent Increases in South Australia's Fertility (Feature Article)

FEATURE ARTICLE: RECENT INCREASES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S FERTILITY

INTRODUCTION

In 2004, South Australia's fertility rate reached a near historic low of 1.68 births per woman. Since then, it has increased to its 2007 level of 1.92, the highest rate since 1975. Sustained periods of fertility well below the replacement level of 2.1 babies per woman leads to a decline in natural population growth. This, together with increasing life expectancy at birth, is one of the drivers of an ageing South Australian population. Given the potential economic impacts of an ageing population, fertility is of particular interest to policy makers.

This article examines the recent increase in South Australia's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) using data from Births, Australia (cat. no. 3301.0). The article examines fertility trends with regard to the age of mother and the relative socio-economic status of the region in which she lives. All female age groups, except for the 45 to 49 year age group, experienced an increase in fertility between 2004 and 2007. The younger age groups showed the greatest percentage increases in fertility rates but females aged 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 years had the largest absolute increase. As shown in this article, low socio-economic areas in South Australia are more likely to have higher rates of fertility in younger age groups compared to higher socio-economic areas.

REGISTERED BIRTHS

During 2007 there were 19,662 births registered in South Australia, the highest number recorded since 1993. There was a period of decline in the number of registered births in South Australia from 1993 to 2004, but after that, up to 2007, there was an increase (refer to the graph below). The increase from 2004 to 2007 coincides with the introduction of the Federal Government's Baby Bonus (introduced on 1st July 2004), which gives financial assistance to families following the birth or adoption of a baby (Family Assistance Office, 2008).

Amendments to the **A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999** which took effect from 1 July 2007 require the registration of, or application for registration of, the birth of a child as a condition for applying for the Baby Bonus. This may have affected the number of births registered in 2007 as there is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth (ABS, 2007a).

Registered Births, South Australia

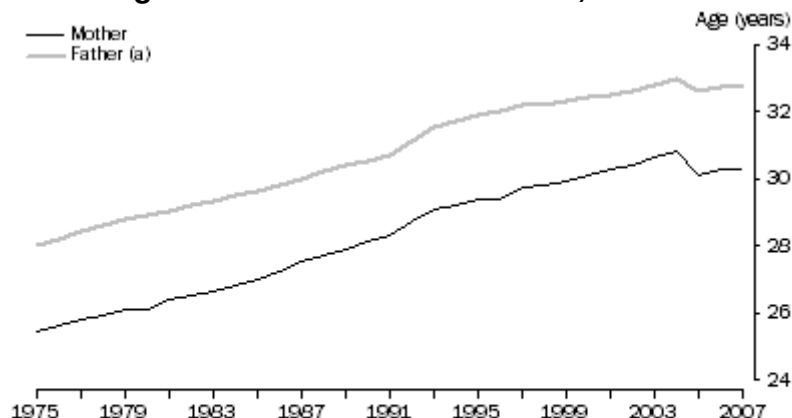


Source: Births, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3301.0)
Australian Household Population Statistics, 2008 (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

Median Age of Parents

The median age of South Australian mothers at confinement has increased from 25.4 years in 1975 to 30.3 years in 2007. There was a consistent increase in the median age of both mothers at confinement and fathers over the period from 1975 to 2004, but a notable drop, as depicted in the graph below, was observed in 2005. The median age of mothers fell from 30.8 in 2004 to 30.1 in 2005. This is the only recorded period where the median age of South Australian mothers has fallen. This coincides with the time at which the fertility rate began to increase in South Australia, and as shown later in this article, it was the age groups under 30 years of age which experienced the biggest percentage increase in fertility at this time.

Median Age of Parents at Confinement, South Australia



(a) Includes fathers where the age is known

Note: data is not available prior to 1975

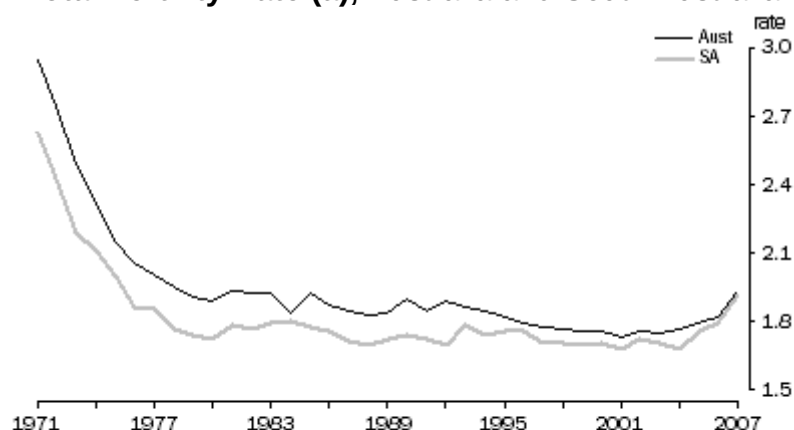
Source: Births, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3301.0), data available on request

Total Fertility Rate

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) represents the average number of babies that a woman could expect to bear during her reproductive lifetime, assuming that current age-specific fertility rates apply. South Australia's TFR has increased over the last three years from 1.68 births per woman in 2004 to 1.92 in 2007. This is the highest level since 1975.

At the height of the 'baby boom' in 1961 South Australia's TFR was 3.75 babies per woman. During the later 1960's and early 1970's, the TFR declined markedly as the oral contraceptive pill became available. The re-interpretation of abortion law also had an impact on women's ability to control their fertility (Carmichael, 1998). The current and historical fertility trends shown in South Australia are similar to those experienced nationally.

Total Fertility Rate (a), Australia and South Australia



9a) Births per woman

Source: *Births, Australia, 2007* (cat. no. 3301.0)

Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2008 (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

Age-Specific Fertility Rates

Age-specific fertility rates for all age groups in South Australia, except for the 45 to 49 year age group, increased between 2004 and 2007 (refer to the table below). During this period, the greatest percentage increases occurred in the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year age groups while the 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 year age groups had the greatest absolute increase. All of the age groups under 30 years of age reversed the downward trend that was apparent in their fertility rates prior to 2004. For example, the teenage fertility rate decreased from 45.8 babies per 1,000 women in 1971 to 13.5 babies per 1,000 women in 2004 before increasing to 17.5 babies per 1,000 women in 2007.

While the younger age groups showed the greatest increases in fertility rates between 2004 and 2007, they showed the greatest decreases between 1971 and 2004. Women aged 20-24 years have experienced the greatest decrease, with the fertility rate falling from 172.6 babies per 1,000 women in 1971 to 48.3 babies per 1,000 women in 2004.

Age-Specific Fertility Rates(a), Selected years, South Australia

Age group	1971	2001	2004	2007
15 to 19 years(b)	45.8	14.5	13.5	17.5
20 to 24 years	172.6	55.5	48.3	57.3
25 to 29 years	179.5	101.1	98.6	111.4

30 to 34 years	82.4	107.6	111.4	125.5
35 to 39 years	36.4	46.6	53.5	59.8
40 to 44 years	8.6	9.8	10.3	10.9
45 to 49 years(c)	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5

(a) Births per 1,000 women

(b) Includes births to mothers aged under 15 years

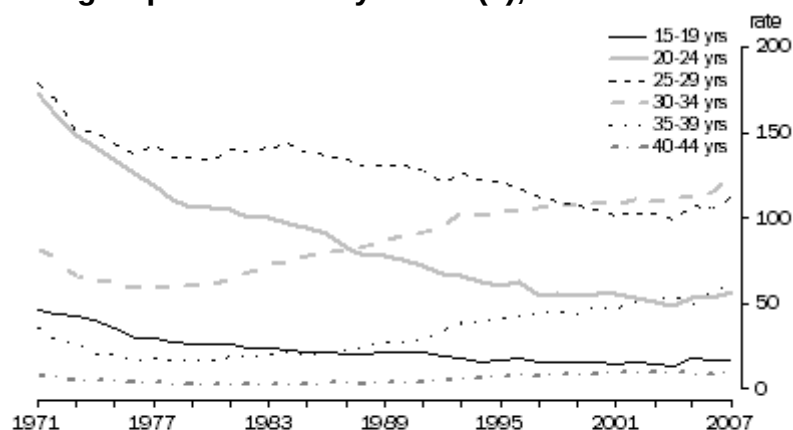
(c) Includes births to mothers aged over 49 years

Source: Births, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3301.0), Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2008 (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

As shown previously in this article, the median age of mothers at confinement increased from 25.4 years in 1975 to 30.3 years in 2007. The shift to an older age-specific fertility pattern can be seen in the graph below. From 1971 to 1998, women aged 25-29 years had the highest fertility rates in South Australia. After 1999, the peak fertility age group was 30-34 years.

Since 2002, the fertility rate of South Australian women aged 35-39 years has been similar to that for women aged 20-24 years. Historically, women aged 20-24 years had significantly higher fertility rates than women aged 35-39 years.

Age-Specific Fertility Rates (a), South Australia



(a) Births per 1,000 women

Source: Births, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3301.0)

Australian Population Statistics, 2008 (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

Number of Births by Socio-Economic Status

Using the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), it is possible to analyse the number of births in South Australia by the relative socio-economic status of Statistical Local Areas where the mother resides at the time of birth. SEIFA indexes are summary measures of a number of variables that represent different aspects of relative socio-economic advantage and/or disadvantage in a geographic area. Based on international research and also on information collected in the Census, the ABS broadly defines relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage in terms of people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society (ABS, 2006).

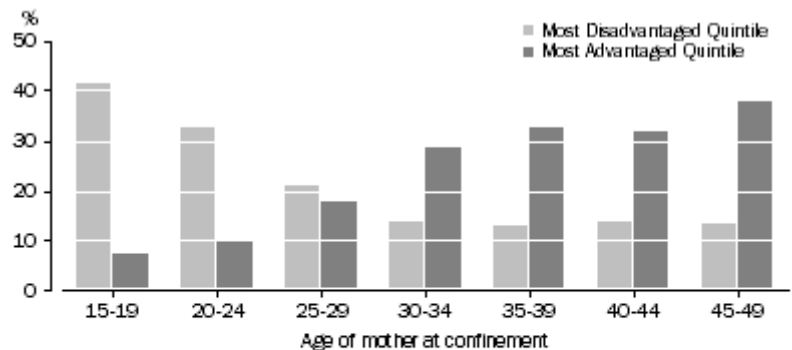
Of all the births to teenage mothers in South Australia between 2005 and 2007, 41.6% were to mothers who resided in the most disadvantaged quintile of the SEIFA Index of Relative Advantage and Disadvantage (refer to graph below). This was despite the fact that only 18.2% of females aged 15 to 19 actually lived in such areas in 2006 (ABS, 2007b).

Conversely, 7.3% of all births to teenage mothers were to mothers who resided in the most

advantaged quintile, even though 28.7% of females aged 15 to 19 lived in such areas.

As the age of the mother increased, the proportion of births in the most disadvantaged areas generally decreased. For example, only 13% of births to mothers aged 35 to 39 were to mothers who resided in the most disadvantaged quintile of the SEIFA index, while 17.4% of females in this age group lived in such areas (ABS, 2007b).

Proportion of All Births in Age-Group, 2005-2007 (a), South Australia



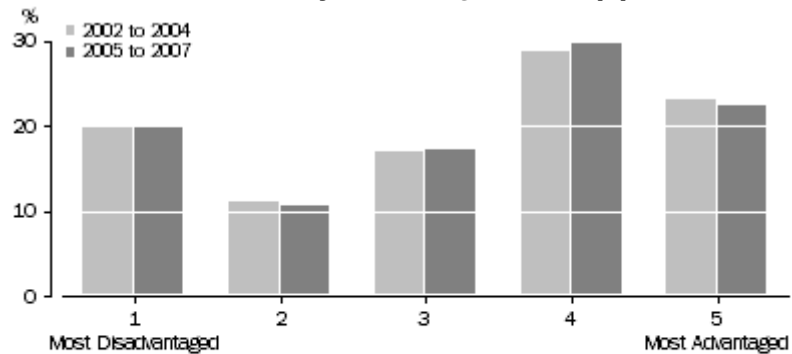
(a) SEIFA Index of Relative Advantage and Disadvantage

Notes: Quintiles divide the number of SLAs in South Australia into 5 equal groups based on their SEIFA score.

Source: Births, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3301.0)
Census of Population and Housing: Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia - Data Only, 2006 (cat. no. 2033.0.55 001)

For the period 2005 to 2007, 20.0% of all births in South Australia were to mothers who lived in the most disadvantaged quintile of the SEIFA Index of Relative Advantage and Disadvantage, virtually unchanged from 20.1% for the period 2002 to 2004.

Proportion of All Births by SEIFA Quintiles (a), South Australia



(a) SEIFA Index of Relative Advantage and Disadvantage

Notes: Quintiles divide the number of SLAs in South Australia into 5 equal groups based on their SEIFA score.

Source: Births, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3301.0)
Census of Population and Housing: Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia - Data Only, 2006 (cat. no. 2033.0.55 001)

CONCLUSION

South Australia's Total Fertility Rate increased from 1.68 births per woman in 2004 to 1.92 in 2007. All age groups, except for the 45 to 49 year age group, showed an increase in fertility between 2004 and 2007. The younger age groups had the greatest percentage increases in fertility rates and females aged 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 years had the largest absolute increase.

While the younger age groups have had the greatest increase in fertility between 2004 and 2007, they have had the greatest decrease in fertility between 1971 and 2007. The median age of women giving birth has increased from 25.4 years in 1975 to 30.3 years in 2007, with the 30-34 year age group now having the highest fertility rates in South Australia.

As shown in this article, low socio-economic areas are more likely to have higher rates of fertility in younger age groups, with over 40% of all teenage births between 2005 and 2007 occurring in the most disadvantaged areas of South Australia.

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Carmichael G, 1998, Things Ain't What They Used to Be! Demography, Mental Cohorts, Mortality and Values in Post-war Australia, Presidential address, Journal of the Australian Population Association, Vol 15, No 2.

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